MCO Newsletter

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FRADKIN AND CLASON TO CHAIR M.C.O. DRIVE

Dr. Dewey Clason

Dr. Irving A. Fradkin, class of '43, will share the chairmanship of the '73 funds drive with Dr. Dewey Clason, class of '59.

Dr. Clason has been practicing in Worcester since 1960. He has been active in professional optometric organizations in numerous offices. He is presently on the American Optometric Association Committee on Administrative Agencies, and has served as chairman of the New England Council of Optometry Practice Management Committee.

Dr. Clason is now Massachusetts Society of Optometry Coordinator of Medicaid. He was president of MSO in 1971-72, 1st Vice-President in 1970-71, and a member of the Executive Board for two years. Dr. Clason lives in Shrewsbury and is an active supporter of Community Chest and YMCA World Service.

Dr. Fradkin lives and practices in Fall River. He is well known as the founder of Citizens Scholarship Foundation ("Dollars for Scholars"), which is founded on the basic concept that every student, regardless of academic standing, should have the opportunity for post-high school education.

Dr. Irving Fradkin

Beginning as a grass-roots program in Fall River, Dollars for Scholars has spread across the country, and has received attention from prominent national periodicals including Time, The Ladies' Home Journal, and The Saturday Review's Education Supplement.

Dr. Fradkin has received many honors for his community service and is an active member of professional organizations.

BUILDING DRIVE SECOND PHASE NOW IN FULL SWING

The second phase of MCO's $675,000 building drive is "well under way," according to Drs. Dewey Clason and Irving Fradkin, co-chairmen.

Goal of the campaign's final phase is $300,000. This will permit us to pay off the remaining mortgage on our main campus by late December.

"Phase I was a major success, with $375,000 in gifts and pledges," said Dr. Fradkin. "We now are hopeful that gifts will be forthcoming from approximately 1,000 alumni who have not responded as yet."

Dr. Clason said that more alumni were needed to help in the current drive, making their own gifts and contacting other MCO alums to obtain support.

Having the present buildings paid for would mean that MCO could then devote more attention to improving the quality of education. "Although giant steps forward have been taken, much remains to be done," Drs. Clason and Fradkin said.

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MCO LAUNCHES OPERATING FUNDS CAMPAIGN

With the building drive in full swing, a call has gone out to help MCO supplement its operating budget by $25,000 to halt further serious cutbacks in education and training.

Cuts in federal funding have left the college without aid necessary to adequately operate three major programs, said Dr. William R. Baldwin, MCO President.

He explained that student aid budgets and library improvement budgets each needed another $10,000. Faculty-student research funds have been severaly depleted; a minimum of $5,000 is required to support this activity. Alumni and friends of the college are being asked to help raise the $25,000 in time to help MCO students enrolling for the fall, 1973 session.

Federal support reached its peak during the last fiscal year, totaling $665,000. This year, MCO expects to receive less than $100,000 in federal aid for operating purposes.

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MCO Campaign '73

FOUR NEW TRUSTEES APPOINTED

Four Massachusetts civic leaders recently were elected to the MCO Board of Trustees.

Mrs. Helen O'Meara

They are: Thomas M. Callahan of Northampton, Dr. Samuel Fine, Boston, Herbert Jacbson, Malden, and Mrs. Helen O'Meara of Cambridge.

More complete information on trustees Callahan, Fine and Jackson will appear in future issues of the MCO Newsletter.

Mrs. O'Meara has been prominent in the health care field for many years. She joined the Massachusetts State Department of Human Services in 1968. Before that, she was a health planning consultant for the State Office of Program and Planning Coordination. In 1965, she was made an Assistant Professor in the Boston University Law-Medicine Institute.

She has held many key posts as a mental health administrator and in 1958 was appointed Director of Social Work for the court clinics of Boston. Her career also includes executive positions in the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

Mrs. O'Meara has served on the faculties of Boston College and Regis College, having received her A. B. from Regis College in 1943 and her M.S.S.W. from Boston College in 1945.

She is a member of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the Massachusetts Committee on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

LIST VOLUNTEER LEADERS FOR FUNDS DRIVE

Drs. Dewey Clason and Irving Fradkin, co-chairmen of the 1973 funds drive for MCO, announced the following alumni and faculty will serve in key campaign posts:

Alumni Executive Committee Liaison:

Dr. Paul Montminy, Lowell

Coordinators:
- Joseph Jefferson, MCO Vice President
- Dr. Hyman Kamens, MCO Dean
- Dr. Frank Kozol, MCO Registrar

Mr. Jefferson, Group Leader:
- '30 and Lower - Dr. Morris Berman, Newton
- '34 - Dr. Adelbert O. Parrott, Fall River
- '37 - Dr. Richard Ferris, Warwick, R. I.
- '38 - Dr. Alfred D. Hanson, Attleboro
- '55 - Dr. William R. Tolford, Portland, Maine
- '56 - Dr. Albert Roy, Salem, N. H.
- '65 - Dr. Glen Gulezian, Haverhill
- '69 - Dr. Henry Boroyan, Chelmsford

Dr. Baldwin, MCO President, Group Leader:
- '32 - Dr. John Asarkof, Boston
- '41 - Dr. Nathan Aronson, Boston
- '42 - Dr. Robert Rodman, Springfield
- '48 - Dr. Robert Bianchi, Somerville
- '54 - Dr. Morris Toll, Danvers
- '59 - Dr. Forest Seavey, Wakefield
- '61 - Dr. Joseph R. Donatelle, Springfield
- '66 - Dr. Matthew Garston, Boston
- '68 - Dr. Lester Brackley, Quincy

Dr. Kamens, Group Leader:
- '47 - Dr. Morton Shaw, Boston
- '49 - Dr. Donald Nahigyan, New Bedford
- '57 - Dr. Charles Connors, Ansonia, Conn.
- '58 - Dr. Philip Hughes, Springfield, Vermont
- '62 - Dr. Robert North, N. Abington
- '64 - Dr. Carl Gustafson, Weymouth
- '70 - Dr. Pauline Beale, Lewiston, Maine

Dr. Clason, Group Leader:
- '31 - Dr. Mark Forgues, Worcester
- '36 - Dr. Max Fishelson, Pittsfield
- '39 - Dr. Donald Feltus, Maynard
- '44 - Dr. George Daniclan, Worcester
- '50 - Dr. Jack Baboian, Watertown
- '63 - Dr. Joseph D'Amico, Holden
- '67 - Dr. David Regan, Wayland

Dr. Fradkin, Group Leader:
- '33 - Dr. Nathan Lager, Lynn
- '43 - Dr. Joseph A. Craven, Newton Centre
- '45 - Dr. A. J. DiMauro, Lawrence
- '46 - Dr. Edward Goldenberg, Hartford, Conn.
- '52 - Dr. William Myers, Boston
- '53 - Dr. Joseph Medeiros, Fall River
- '60 - Dr. Joseph Comalli, Middleboro

MCO PIONEERS TWO-YEAR PROGRAM FOR POST-DOCTORAL STUDENTS SEEKING O. D. DEGREES

The college has made a pioneering contribution to optometric education, through its new two-year program for post-doctoral students wishing to earn O. D. degrees.

There are 12 students in the first class, and plans are being made to accept a new group on July 1. Students in the current program already hold doctoral degrees in physics, psychology, chemistry and micro-biology.

Some plan to teach, while others will practice optometry or engage in research.

"We think optometry will benefit from professionals who can offer a multi-disciplinary approach," said Dr. Kenneth Myers, a student in the new two-year program. Dr. Myers, who has a Ph.D. in biophysics from Ohio State University, plans to teach and engage in research.

Dr. Paul Ogbuehi, a Ph.D. in physics, plans to teach in the first college of optometry to be opened in Nigeria. A native Nigerian, he has been active in founding the new school at Benin University and will join the faculty there when he graduates from MCO in June, 1974.

The new two-year program began in July, 1972. It was conceived by MCO President Baldwin, in collaboration with Dr. Norman Wallis. Dr. Wallis now is president of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

The two-year program offers good opportunities for independent study and research, although students spend considerable time in the MCO clinic system.

"There is much emphasis on the practical aspects of optometry that we students knew nothing about," said Dr. Myers.

President Baldwin hopes the program can expand from 12 students to 16, but says this can only be done if support funds are acquired.

"The accelerated O. D. program for post-doctoral students is especially appealing because it brings to optometry persons who, in a relatively short time period, can begin to make unique and important contributions to new knowledge in the field," Dr. Baldwin said.

1973 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

MCO presented Doctor of Optometry degrees to 57 graduates on March 31, at New England Life Hall in Boston.

More than 700 parents and guests attended the ceremonies, highlighted by the presentation of honorary degrees to Dr. Frances Ilg, Brig. Gen. Manley G. Morrison and Dr. Marshall V. Mark. Brig. Gen. Morrison, Chief of the Army Medical Service Corps, was the principal speaker.

Dr. Ilg is a noted pediatrician, author, lecturer and retired director of famed Gesell Institute. She was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by Dr. Ira Schwartz, member of the MCO board of trustees. Dr. Ilg was honored in recognition of her contribution to the study of children and vision, reaching a peak in her book, Vision.

Under Dr. Ilg's direction, the Gesell Institute established a vision department, supervised by three prominent optometrists. In accepting her degree, Dr. Ilg suggested areas of research in which she felt optometry could make new contributions.

Gen. Morrison's honorary degree was conferred by Joseph Jefferson, MCO vice-president. Dr. Morrison praised work being done by optometrists in the military and said that there was ample opportunity for young optometrists just coming out of college.

Dr. John H. Carter, academic dean of MCO, presented an honorary Doctor of Ocular Science degree to Dr. Marshall V. Mark (MCO class of 1942). Earlier, Dr. Mark was the recipient of the 1973 Namias Award for excellence in teaching. Dr. Mark is an Associate Professor at MCO, besides being widely known as an optometric author. He has published more than 100 papers.

The valedictory address was given by Kenneth J. Ciuffreda, who in addition to being class valedictorian, won a few days earlier the Dr. Ralph H. Green Gold Medal Award and the Beta Sigma Kappa Silver Medal Award.

Dr. Frances Ilg, former director of the famed Gesell Institute, receives honorary doctoral degree from Dr. Ira Schwarz, MCO trustee.

BUILDING DRIVE SECOND PHASE NOW IN FULL SWING

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They cited recent cutbacks in federal funding which "make it more urgent than ever" for alumni and friends to support the college. Dr. Paul Montminy of Lowell, MCO alumni president, also is spearheading phase 2 efforts, enlisting support from those who still are being asked to give.

Numerous meetings of campaign leadership already have been held in the Greater Boston area, and others are being scheduled, said Dr. William R. Baldwin, MCO president. Alumni will be asked to help in organizing these meetings and letting all potential donors know about the need.

Meanwhile, plans are being finalized for a June 13 dinner, during which the Optical Wholesalers of New England will be honored for their gift of $25,300 to the building drive. A special plaque will be awarded to the organization during dinner activities at the Colonnade in Boston.

"The Optical Wholesalers played a leading part in the success of phase I," Dr. Baldwin said. "Indeed I think the success of phase I can serve as an inspiration in this final stage of our campaign." During phase I, 285 optometrists and other friends of the college contributed $375,000 in gifts and pledges.

There were sixteen pledges for $5,000 and one $6,000 pledge.

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RONALD R. FERRUCCI ELECTED PRESIDENT NATIONAL AOSA

Ronald R. Ferrucci, a third-year student at MCO, was elected national president of the American Optometric Students Association during the national AOSA convention in Los Angeles. His term of office begins July 1.

Ronald R. Ferrucci

Ferrucci is an active leader among students specializing in various health disciplines. As AOSA national president, he will be a member of the Student Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Health and a member of the coalition of the National Student Health Professionals Association.

At MCO, Ferrucci has been president of his class for two years. He has served as both Vice-President of the student body and as a member of the board of trustees in AOSA. He was an MCO student delegate to the American Public Health Association Convention in Atlantic City (November, 1972) and the Student Interdisciplinary Health Manpower Conference in Chicago (March, 1972). He was also chairman of the class of 1974 Curriculum Committee.

A native of Woonsocket, R. I., Ferrucci is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Dominic Ferrucci, and a 1966 graduate of Woonsocket High School. His undergraduate work was at Tufts University, where he fulfilled requirements for majors in both English and biology and graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Ferrucci was actively involved in campus affairs at Tufts, serving as vice-president and then president of the Wren Resident House Council. He was a member of the Nine-Man Board of the University governing body and a member of the student counseling program for three years.

Ferrucci entered MCO in September, 1970, and will graduate in 1974. His election to the national presidency of AOSA is both a mark of his qualities of leadership and a source of pride to MCO.

PHYSICAL EXERCISE: GOOD OR BAD FOR THE EYE?

Students at MCO have been investigating the effect of physical exercise on intra-ocular pressure.

Using a new non-contact tonometer (the "air puff" tonometer) students have been monitoring intra-ocular pressure before and after strenuous exercise.

In initial experiments, a series of pressure readings were taken prior to a 20-minute period of strenuous, stationary bicycling and then every 5 to 60 minutes after cycling stopped. The subjects were randomly selected males, ages 19 to 43. Results indicate a lowering of intra-ocular pressure, despite highly elevated pulse and blood pressure rates.

The second series of experiments monitored 63 runners in the recent Boston and Lake Champlain marathons. The marathon is 26 miles long, and runners tested ran the entire distance. Before and after testing indicated intra-ocular pressure fell.

These findings agree with earlier studies by others based on small sample sizes and leave little room for doubt. Further studies are now under way on subjects with glaucoma or higher than normal intra-ocular pressure. It is expected that these subjects will show, as pilot studies revealed, an even greater pressure drop. A combination of exercise and medication may well be an effective treatment for those to whom exercise poses no health hazard.

Kenneth Myers, Ph.D., a post-doctoral student at MCO, was the principal investigator on the intra-ocular pressure studies. He was assisted by other MCO students.

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Tuition hikes already have helped bring in more operating revenue, but additional sources of non-federal funds must be developed, Dr. Baldwin said.

To help bridge the operating funds gap, Dr. Baldwin said there must be even more cutbacks in programs "not directly involved in O. D. education." He mentioned budgetary belt tightening in research, continuing education, post-graduate education and community services.

Individual and small group instruction also will be hit by the budget pinch. However, deeper program cuts can be avoided if the additional $25,000 can be raised in time, Dr. Baldwin said.